



CLUB REPEATERS VE3TBR

Phone: 807-767-7661
Listen: 146.820 MHz
Txmit: 146.220 MHz
Listen: 444.825 MHz
Txmit: 449.825 MHz

VE3YQT
Phone: 807-767-5492
Listen: 147.060 MHz
Txmit: 146.460 MHz

VA3OLA
Listen: 53.050 MHz
Txmit: 52.050 MHz

VE3BGA
Listen: 145.450 MHz
Txmit: 144.850 MHz

WEEKLY BREAKFASTS

Saturdays 10:00 a.m.
Blue Parrot Restaurant

2 METRE NET
Mondays 7:00 p.m.
VE3YQT Repeater.

NEXT MEETING



7:30 p.m. Boston Pizza,
Arthur Street. Bring a gift
from the shack to exchange.

SHORTWAVES

Well, another year is about to end. Seems as if the years are getting shorter and shorter and the winters longer and longer, eh? I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah and a very Healthy and Happy New Year.

The 2m net has come back to life with a new quintet of net controllers. With the mix of personalities, each Monday net takes on a different flavour and makes for interesting listening and participation. Most of us are new to the job so it's nice to see that the listening audience is breaking us in slowly.

Work is progressing on the new 10m repeater. Wayne, VA3WRL is sponsoring the licence and says that Randy, VA3GOT and crew many have it up and running by the spring. So, now's the time to upgrade the Morse code endorsement to be able to use 10 metres. In a couple of years, when cycle 23 gets going, you'll see a lot of DX action on this band.

Stephen, VE3DP gave me a call to tell me about his latest CW QSO. With his homemade 20m stealth antenna, he had worked all continents and lots of rare DX in about a couple of weeks. All in Morse code and all with 100 watts or less. He busted through pileups of big gun kilowatt stations using skill and finesse, instead of brute force.

The only problem is that Stephen's antenna sits near the ground with the feedpoint about 3 feet above it. It only occupies about 30 feet of space and is made up of nothing more than ordinary wire! Now, everyone knows that you can't work DX with low power and a low antenna using nothing more than dits and dahs at

the bottom of a solar cycle and have fun to boot. Everyone, except VE3DP, that is. Being able to headcopy CW at any speed doesn't hurt either, hi!

If you happen to drive by the old Post Office Building on Court Street, take a look up at the roof. Notice anything missing? Skip, VE3BBS and Norm, VE3XRC aided and abetted by Wayne, VA3WRL, Terry, VE3TKA, Ian, VA3RIM and Bob, VA3ROM got up on the roof and took every Industry Canada antenna, runs of coax and a tower apart and dropped everything over the side to the street below. Some excitement occurred when lowering the top section of the 40 foot tower with a 32 foot line. Yours truly dutifully hung onto the end as the much heavier top section complete with rotor just quite didn't touch ground. Good thing I didn't lose those extra 5 kilos.—Ed.

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Founding President

P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW
1881-1972

In honour of the memory of our founding president, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

Senate

Bill Roberts, VE3ARN
Keith Fiske, VE3JQ
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY
Ray Greer, VE3CH
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

Executive Board

President: Ian Mellis, VA3RIM	577-1628
Vice Pres: Ed Baumann, VE3SNW	622-1216
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC	577-9316
Treasurer: John Watson, VE3GTX	683-3199
Directors: Judy LeFevre, VA3EAP	622-7920
Dave Horne, VA3DVE	344-9325
Don Bel, VA3DPB	473-5482
Rob Van Wyck, VE3FLB	344-7845
Mem.Sec: John Watson, VE3GTX	683-3199
PastPres: Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA	577-9439
HI-Q Ed: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM	344-7731

Thunder Bay Voyageur Award

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club in cooperation with the City of Thunder Bay, sponsors the Voyageur Award. Any SWL, scanner listener or ham monitoring or working 5 Thunder Bay amateur radio stations qualifies. Send your log copy with dates, times, frequencies, call signs and \$2.00 to the Awards Manager at the club address below.

Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., an Ontario registered non-profit corporation. The opinions expressed or implied in issues of *HI-Q* are those of the author. The LARC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or the information submitted.

Material in *HI-Q* may be copied for non-profit use provided that credit is given to the source. Contributions related to amateur radio, especially those articles of interest to Northwestern Ontario amateurs are encouraged. Material can be submitted in WordPerfect® format or as a text file via fax: 807-345-2688, packet: VA3ROM@VE3TKA, voice mail: VE3TBR repeater user 159 or via email: rmazur@tbaytel.net. Send material or dated announcements no later than the 20th of the month in which it is to appear.

To reduce costs, advertising at the following per issued rates is accepted: full-page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) are available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your ad copy and cheque (payable to the LARC) to the club address listed below. Advertising in *HI-Q* does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service.

LARC membership fees are set for the year as follows: regular—\$30.00, associate—\$20.00, associate (attending ham classes)—\$90.00, student (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. *HI-Q* is sent to all LARC members but only one copy is mailed to each address.

Mailing Address

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 4A3, Canada.

Internet Home Page

Get your copy of *HI-Q* electronically at: <http://www.tbaytel.net/lbougief/larc.htm>.

\$Wap 'n \$hop

2 - Mocom 70 (49-59 MHz).

Requires crystals and retuning.

Complete with remote heads and mike.

\$10.00 each.

1 - Yaesu FT-840 HF transceiver.

100 watts output with all bells & whistles.

Comes with desk mike (new) \$200.00 value,

mobile bracket (new) \$50.00 value,

10m FM board (installed) \$100.00 value.

Asking \$1,300.00 o.b.o.

Contact Don, VA3DPB, 473-5482.

2m Ramsey power amplifier.

5 watts in 30 watts out.

Contact Karel, VA3KBJ, 767-0526.

1-HR2600 10m mobile, with chipswitch.

1-computer (type unspecified).

Contact Darrel, VE3PRP, 344-5158.

FINAL NOTICE!

Now that we have your attention—If you haven't paid your 1997 annual LARC membership fees by the end of December 1996, this will be your last issue of *HI-Q*.

If you are having problems or difficulties and can't make the deadline, drop the club a note to work something out.

Meeting Minutes

by Norm, VE3XRC

Minutes of a meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 207B at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on November 14, 1996.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President, VA3RIM, Ian Mellis with 33 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started off with a round-table of those in attendance introducing themselves.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held October 10, 1996 were published in detail in the November edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. **Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen that the minutes be accepted as published. **Carried.**

Old Business:

Membership cards are in the works and it is hoped to have them available for the December meeting.

Correspondence

A thank-you card from VE3FTS, Bill Mathews.

A letter from Operation Lookout requesting the support of the LARC in reducing impaired driving.

Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of VE3GTX, John Watson, the Treasurer's Report was presented by the secretary, VE3XRC, Norm Bell. *See page 5.—Ed.*

Balance as of October 10, 1996:

\$ 612.11

Income: 1704.66

Expenses: 205.96

Balance as of October 31, 1996:

\$2110.81

Motion: moved by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann and seconded by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Carried.**

Committee Reports:

Public Service: VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki stated that he hopes to have a monthly article on Public Service Events published in *HI-Q*.

Events coming up in the near future are the Beargrease Sled Dog Race in January and the Sibley Ski Tour the first Saturday in March. He is creating a data base for public service events and event directors.

Equipment: VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson is still working on the tone controls for the link that will be used between Upsala and VE3YQT.

He also pointed out to the membership that anytime you hear in Morse code the letter "B" on VE3YQT, the repeater on Mount Baldy has lost power and is running on the battery backup system. In this situation, the repeater should be used sparingly to preserve the battery.

Call Sign Allocations: VE3UA, Jim O'Brien pointed out that a committee has been established by RAC to take over the assignment of call signs from Industry Canada. Information is in the November issue of *TCA* regarding this issue and if you have any comments, send them to the committee with a copy to VA3GD, Pat Doherty.

Annual Banquet: VE3RVA, Bob Hansen stated that tickets for the LARC Annual Dinner will be available by the December meeting.

The dinner is to be held on February 13, 1997 at the Landmark Inn. Ticket prices will be in the \$20.00 to \$23.00 range per person.

New Business:

1996/1997 Budget: the proposed 1996-97 Budget was presented by VE3XRC, Norm Bell in the absence of the treasurer. *See page 5.—Ed.*

Motion: moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and seconded by VA3GD, Pat Doherty that the proposed budget as presented be accepted. **Carried.**

Charitable Status: VA3RIM, Ian

Mellis, VE3SNW, Ed Baumann and VE3XRC, Norm Bell had a meeting with Brian MacIvor of the firm of Cheadle, Johnson, Shanks and MacIvor on November 11, 1996. To obtain charitable status he suggested a name change and the approximate cost would be \$4,000.00. No further action has taken place.

Emergency Communications, Thunder Bay Police: on November 6, 1996, VA3RIM, Ian Mellis, VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and VE3XRC, Norm Bell met with Staff Inspector Brian Lunny and S/Sgt. Ken Baker of the Thunder Bay Police Service. The services of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club were offered in the event of an emergency. To that point, the Thunder Bay Police will see if they can get coax fed from the roof of the police station into the situation room. If this can be accomplished, the LARC will install a 2m antenna on the Balmoral Street building.

Appointment of Auditors: as required by our by-laws, auditors must be appointed at the November meeting. VA3GD, Pat Doherty and VE3KRH, Steve Robb have agreed to prepare an audited financial statement to be presented at the annual dinner in February.

Notice of Motion: as there is some minor changes required to By-Law #1 of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, the following Notice of Motion was presented: Moved by VE3XRC, Norm Bell and seconded by VA3DVE, Dave Horne that a "Notice of Motion" is hereby presented to make the following changes to the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club's By-Law #1:

Article 3.2: the last statement "The DIRECTORS shall each have one of the following positions" to the end of the article be deleted.

Article 7.1: The head office address shall be Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3.

Article 7.2: the last two sentences to be deleted and replaced

(Continued on page 4)

with "The Seal and Incorporation Papers shall be held by the Secretary.

As thirty days notice is required, this notice of motion will be discussed and voted on at the January 1997 meeting.

December Meeting: it was announced that the December meeting will be held at Boston Pizza on Arthur Street at 7:30 p.m. VA3EAP, Judy LeFevre will be in charge of the meeting. A gift exchange of something from your "shack" will take place. It was suggested that the Secretary forget to bring his binder with him.

Operation Lookout: Motion: moved by VE3TKA, Terry

Stewardson and seconded by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann that the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club endorse Operation Lookout. **Carried.**

Antenna Seminar: will be held on November 28, 1996 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in room 207B at Confederation College. VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki will expand on Yagi antennas.

Antenna Season: as such places as Nipigon already have snow and Environment Canada has promised snow for Thunder Bay within 24 hours, VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki reluctantly officially opened the 1996/1997 antenna season with a resounding blast from his trusty horn which he had carefully

concealed during the meeting. **50/50 Draw:** winner of the 50/50 draw was VE3XLB, Linda Bell.

Adjournment: moved by VA3MOB, Maureen Bell that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

Guest Speaker: following a break, the president introduced Mr. Bill Fauconnier of Digital Engineering Inc. Bill presented an outline of what his company does which is design and manufacture printed circuit boards that have a special purpose.

The company sells its products primarily in Canada, but sales have been made to the U.S.A., Europe and the Middle East. By the way of a slide presentation, Bill showed the steps involved in the production of these boards.

The Last Dit

by Bruce Warren

The end of an era. On Tuesday, November 19th, 1996, at 1400 UTC, the final CW message was sent from Halifax Coast Guard Radio (VCS). The message was sent by retired radio operator Vern Hillier who spent the most days at work at VCS, first starting with the old station at Camperdown.

The final transmission was witnessed by approximately 25 present and former VCS staff.

On September 30th, 1996, all HF services were shut down. Today, November 19th, 500 kHz service was

transferred to Sydney Coast Guard Radio Station.

Halifax Coast Guard Radio is now co-located at Shannon Hill, Nova Scotia along with the radio station from Dartmouth and the Halifax Vessel Traffic Centre under the new name of Halifax Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS).

On Monday, November 18th, all remaining VHF communication services were transferred to the new site. The remaining MF services were transferred after the final Morse code

message was sent. 73 to all.

I would wager that there wasn't a dry eye in the house or at sea as the final CW message from VCS was sent by hand.

There are only a handful of world class message centres in the world. VCS ranked up there with the best of them. In its glory day, there were dozens of radio operators, per shift, manning high-speed and slow-speed CW and voice HF/MF and VHF circuits. Hundreds upon hundreds of messages were sent and received each and every day.—Ed.

Custom Callsign Plaques

18-1/2" x 4-1/2" mahogany background with 2" high x 3/4" thick pine lettering with your callsign (6 characters max.) Complete with hanging chain.

\$15.00 in Thunder Bay.
\$20.00 outside Thunder Bay.

*Make cheque payable to the LARC and mail to:
Callsign Plaques in c/o The LARC, Suite 184,
1100C Memorial Av., Thunder Bay, ON P7B 4A3.*

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*Serving the Commercial, Amateur, CB, SWL and Marine Radio
Markets. Across from Five Mile School on Highway 102
at the Dawson Road Country Store.*

Open 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday

1996/1997 Annual Budget

by Norm, VE3XRC

Treasurer's Report (continued): in the absence of VE3GTX, John Watson, the Treasurer's Report was presented by the secretary, VE3XRC, Norm Bell.

Balance as of October 10, 1996: \$ 612.11

Income:

Membership Due	1250.00	
Donation	20.00	
Call Sign Plaques	70.00	
Student Fees	265.00	
Bank Interest	.16	
Call Books	12.00	
50/50 Draw	14.50	
RAC Membership	38.00	
Book Sale	35.00	1704.66

Expenses:

Telephone	59.26	
RAC Memberships	76.00	
Advertising	70.70	205.96

Balance as of October 31, 1996: \$2110.81

Motion: moved by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann and seconded by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Carried.**

1996/1997 Budget: the proposed 1996/1997 Budget was presented by VE3XRC, Norm Bell in the absence of the treasurer.

CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSE
Annual Dinner	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Membership Fees	3,000.00	
50/50 Draw	150.00	
Bank Interest	3.00	
Call Books		
Administration		400.00
RAC Memberships	190.00	190.00
Publications	350.00	500.00
Awards		100.00
Bank Service Charge		15.00
Callsign Plaques		
Student Fees	400.00	
HI-Q		1,400.00
Telephone		700.00
Repeater Maintenance		100.00
Links		200.00
TOTALS	\$5,093.00	\$4,605.00

Motion: moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and seconded by VA3GD, Pat Doherty that the proposed budget as presented be accepted. **Carried.**

New Award to Spur Activity

The Heritage Amateur Radio Club (HARC) of Cobourg/Port Hope is introducing a new Canadian award called the Great Lakes and Ontario Routes Award (GLORA).

Amateur radio operators are invited to QSO with those in the province of Ontario. Required contacts are along the Canadian Great lakes, Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron and Superior, 35 in total, plus various interesting inland routes of the pioneers; most notably on the 100th anniversary of the longest street in the world, Yonge St. (Hwy. 11) from Toronto north about 2,000 km to Rainy River near the Manitoba border.

This operating exercise has something for everybody with three categories—bronze, silver and gold. Bronze calls for 50 contacts, silver 75 and for the operators with the best skills and time who wish the

challenge of going for the gold—100+ logged QSOs with no QSL cards required (honour system). Any band or mode is valid, shortwave listeners are also invited to participate.

For a copy of the rules, please send a SASE to:

**Heritage Amateur Radio Club
Awards Chairman,
Eric Olsen, VE3GGO
7 Skye Valley Dr., RR #4
Cobourg, ON K9A 4J7**

If we can get more Canadians talking and listening to Canadians, maybe some of them will get on board and join Radio Amateurs of Canada and/or become new hams.—73, Eric.
Tnx to TCA, October 1996, pg. 5.

Nifty QRP Kits

Dr. Rick Zabrodksi, VE6GK, (zabrod@med.ucalgary.ca), an avid QRPer, tells TCA that another QRP kit the EMTECH NW8020, is available. He says that while it is a monobander, it has a great receiver and puts out a full 5 watts for those

individuals not quite ready for milliwattting.

Rick includes information from Roy Gregson, W6EMT, to recipients of the QRP listserver at qrp-l@lehigh.edu.

Roy says that the EMTECH NW8020 monobanders covering 80, 40, 30 and 20 metres are skill-builders designed to bring fun and creativity back to ham radio.

You build it from a kit with instructions for testing each sub-circuit as you go, using a minimum of test equipment, so you know that it is safe to move onto the next module. The rigs are superhets with full QSK keying. Features include crystal ladder filter, variable crystal bandwidth filter option; stable VFO with 8:1 Vernier, RIT, 5 watts adjustable down to milliwatts, speaker audio, sidetone, optional 2-pole filter and provision for adding a keyer and frequency counter. Price for basic kit is \$75.00 (U.S.)

For more information contact:

**EMTECH
Roy Gregson, W6EMT
13848 SE 10th Bellevue, WA
98005**

email: roy.gregson@usfamily.wa.com
Tnx to TCA, February 1996, pg. 43.

Editorial

I received email from a group of newer club members who feel that they are not truly part of the LARC and are being slighted by long-time members, that the LARC is cliquish. They also feel that credit is not being given fairly where credit is due when they show up to assist in public service events.

To address the second point first, I have been begging for input and contributions from every club member. If you write it, I'll print it. No one, who participated, bothered to submit articles or credits on either Field Day or the Thunder Bay Airshow. I can't read minds, my friends and I am getting peeved.

The Club can't get new members to volunteer as organizers and

coordinators, directors, net controllers or committee members (with a few exceptions.) The same people, over and over have to do all the hard work or nothing would get done. Wouldn't *you* get a little ticked off? Wouldn't *you* deserve the recognition for being in charge and taking the credit or flack? I have brought up the topic of public service event certificates to recognize participants and we are trying to put together an Awards Committee to revamp this program. Norm, VE3XRC needs volunteers for this committee. Hint for new members to start getting involved.

As for the first point, many new hams are CB'ers or non-technical types or no-code amateurs which

rankles those who think that they aren't really hams. Very few can copy 40 wpm Morse (both versions), so 95 percent of us aren't real hams. No one was born with a microphone or handkey (except VE3AJ). All of us have done and said dumb things on air. Myths and misconceptions die hard but they do die, with time. Listen to the nonsense on 75 metres from long-time, advanced-ticket hams. The pot calling the kettle black, eh? Shame on all of us.

There's nothing stopping members from coming to exec meetings and airing views and concerns. There's nothing stopping you from running for elected positions, talking to directors and writing for *HI-Q*. Nothing but *hard work*, that is.—Ed.

Ham Puzzler

by Dave, VE3AVS

Unscramble the four jumbled words. Then arrange the shaded letters to form a word or words associated with the call sign shown below. Answer in next month's *HI-Q*.

V E 3 A J

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

O E D D I
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

V S A W E
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

E E M D B A
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

N E O C R R
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Last month's answer:

VE3XRC = "CLIMBER"

OMNIS, TOWER, CABLES,
STEREO

With apologies for the error in the last word—Dave.

Odds 'n Ends

Of interest to packet users in the local area. Over in Calumet, Michigan, they will be installing a new digipeater at the site of the current 147.315 repeater but at a new height of around 1600 feet. The frequency will be 145.090. *Tnx to Dave, VE3AVS.*

I had a chat with Art, KO8Y over in Calumet concerning RTTY this

winter. We will be listening on Monday, Wednesday and Friday on a frequency of 145.800 MHz at 2100 hours local time using 45 baud. We may not be on every evening but will try to be on as much as possible. This is to encourage those amateurs who have BAUDOT/RTTY functions on TNC's but don't use them.

Also, Art, KO8Y is operating his on PBS "CENBBS" on 145.090 MHz daily between the hours of 0800 to 2200 hours local time. I can easily reach his station and make a connection with no difficulty. The only "fly in the ointment" is that for both RTTY and PACKET PBS, Art uses *horizontal* instead of vertical polarity. *Tnx to Dave, VE3AVS.*

In 1999, there will be another WARC conference. Most likely, the Morse code requirement will be removed from amateur radio. With this, new and tougher examinations will probably come into force. The question is, what happens to those amateurs who don't already have their 5 wpm endorsements only the Basic licence?

The editor of *HI-Q* has used up most of his material and is desperately asking the membership to please, please, please send in whatever contribution(s) they can to ensure that *HI-Q* maintains its quality and high standards.

Across the Border

Some 125 hams from the greater New York City/Long Island area contributed more than 2500 volunteer hours to support recovery operations in the wake of the TWA Flight 800 disaster on July 17.

The New York City Red Cross's mission became the feeding of the

2000 to 3000 rescue workers at the "crash site" (U.S. Coast Guard Station) and to provide mental health support for the workers and the victims' families.

The local phone company donated cell phones, but these initially were useless, with thousands of workers, reporters severely overloading the local cell. A high capacity site was set up the next day *but that, too, had its limitations.*

Ham radio worked, however. And ARES organizations were able to provide communications links between the American Red Cross HQ, the lead Red Cross official at the site and the Red Cross official at the morgue.

Some lessons were learned during the support effort: You can't always count on 2m repeaters to provide coverage. A 70cm repeater was heavily used. ECs should keep a database of available equipment that is loaned to operators.

Prospective volunteers should be reminded that while duty shifts are usually eight hours, they can often turn out to be 10 or 12 hours or more long. People have to remember that having two batteries does not mean that they have long-term power for their handheld radios.

Coordination among ECs is the key to success and individual volunteers must also coordinate their involvement with those in charge and not "just show up to assist." Volunteers also should not make statements to the media as this just adds to the confusion.

Even those with little or no public service experience can be valuable in an emergency situation. Do not think that just because you haven't been involved for long with emergency communications or amateur radio that you can't assist. Most people that can assist are new and are learning, and if you have checked into local club net and ARES or RACES net, then you have the basics needed to assist.

Tnx to Harmonics, the official publication of the South New Jersey Radio Association; via 73 magazine, November 1996, page 8.

RAC Report

by Pat, VA3GD

Radio Amateurs of Canada is forming an Examination Working Group and invites input for examinations. The group will, over 1997 and 1998, publish a new Basic and Advanced syllabus and question and answer banks. The scope of examinations will be expanded and question banks enlarged. This is an ongoing process with an updated syllabus and question bank for Basic and Advanced being published on a rotation basis every two years. You don't have to be a member of RAC to submit your suggestions. Comments and suggestions should be submitted to:

Chair, Examination Working Group

**Radio Amateurs of Canada, Inc.
Suite 217 - 720 Belfast Road
Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5**

They may feel your suggestions are good enough that an invitation to join the EWG may be offered. With half of the Working Group retiring each

year, spaces will be available. New examination software is in development and it is expected by mid 1997. Volunteer examiners will be able to give online computerized examinations to students.

The Federal Communications Commission, in the United States, has issued regulations covering RF exposure. As of January 1, 1997, United States Amateurs will be required to meet standards for exposure to RF fields. Any amateur whose output is over 50 watts will be required to evaluate their station, taking into account power output, antenna gain, frequency and proximity of antenna(s) to inhabited areas. They will have to comply with the new standards. Most stations will not have to alter the configuration.

High power stations, close to their neighbours, especially in the VHF/UHF range with high gain antennas and arrays, could have problems. Amateur stations will have to be able to show that they have evaluated their stations and meet the

standards. Fortunately, they do not have to do an environmental assessment like commercial licensees. I understand that while Industry Canada is not pursuing this, Health and Welfare is investigating it. You can bet if it has reached such a stage south of the border, we will see it here in the not too distant future. (You don't think this could be a sinister plot by the QRP group, just kidding!)

By the time you read this you should have received a mailing from Radio Amateurs of Canada (*only non-RAC members—Ed.*) I could say the brochure is required reading, but I won't. Certainly look it over, if you have any questions, ask. Above all, fill out the membership form and send it in. We need the support of *all* Canadian amateurs. Times and rules are changing. You are going to need a National organization as a source of information and support in the future. They say if you don't vote then don't bitch.—73, Pat Doherty, VA3GD, Director, Ontario North.

LARC Public Service Events

by Mike, VE3ZG

It is said, in show business, come snow, rain or shine, the show must go on! On November 16th, the Santa Claus parade did go, even though the weather was somewhat inclement, with a drizzle that began as the parade participants began lining up.

By all accounts, people in good numbers turned out to view the annual event. Yours truly, Marion, VE3MJN, Dan, VE3DWP and Archie VA3HWA were on site at the Community Auditorium for the formation of the parade.

As the various floats, vehicles, bands, marchers, etc. arrived, they were formed into lines and a sheet was filled out. Dan ran the list to Marion who radioed the information to Norman, VE3XRC, who was located at the announcer's booth on the parade route. Linda, VE3XLB

backed up Norman. With an entry of roughly 80 participants, it took a little time. In fact, the parade started leaving the lot before all the entries were numbered, so it was a bit of a scramble to get the information out to the announcer before the leader of the parade was too far down the road.

For future reference, a colour party leads the parade and names of the colour bearers are required. An O.P.P. cruiser follows the colour party, then several vehicles bearing dignitaries, then come the various entries.

Inevitably, entries do not go out in the order that they are assigned. Therefore, anyone who draws this assignment in the future must sit at the exit point and double-check the order that each parade participant leaves the lot. They will definitely not

be in the same order as they were assigned. This means correcting the information previously given. Ian, VA3RIM, who was located part way down the parade route, was also keeping a wary eye out for out-of-step entries and assisting in keeping things straight.

Lots of other little side bits, but room prohibits mentioning them all. Fun was had by all, and to all a job well done! If any precipitation is going to fall next year, maybe it should be snow, at least then the lists would be drier. It is difficult leafing through soggy paper to find out who should be where.

There are no known events scheduled for December, so everyone have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year! We start everything all over again in 1997.